

On page 6, line 16, replace the description of Figure 13 with:

--- ~~Figure 13 is a section view taken along line 13 - 13 B - B of Figure 11.~~ ---

On page 6, line 18, replace the description of Figure 14 with:

--- ~~Figure 14 is a section view taken along line 14 - 14 C - C of Figure 10.~~ ---

On page 7, replace the first paragraph under the heading **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS OF INVENTION** with:

--- One exemplary embodiment of an optical fiber array according to the principles of the present invention is shown in Figures 1 - 8. Array assembly 10 includes a suitable housing 5 to house and secure array of optical fibers 6 and first wafer 1, a second wafer 2, and a third wafer 3 include openings 12, 14, and 16, respectively, arranged in predetermined congruent patterns such as rows and columns generally as shown. As described below wafers 1, 2, and 3 ~~are openings and openings~~ 12, 14, and 16 cooperate to initially seat and ultimately precisely secure each fiber at a precise position prior to subsequent process steps of application of epoxy, grinding, polishing and assembly of the final array apparatus. Wafers 1, 2, 3 can be made of any suitable

material for the precise formation and positioning of openings. Etched silicon wafers is one example of a suitable material and hole formation technique. In this example openings 12, 14, 16 are generally square or diamond shaped with one diameter vertically oriented, however, other shapes and orientations can be used.---